noted slow engine beat. For the next half hour, it was heard clearly and regularly and this enabled CC to record the Uluguru call on cassette tape. On loud playback of *B. poensis* calls recorded by Dr F. Dowsett-Lemaire in Nyungwe Forest, Rwanda, the bird moved closer to us. A second bird was also stimulated to call briefly.

CC is fairly familiar with *B. poensis* calls from West Africa. Their similarity to the Uluguru calls, the birds' response to the recordings made by Françoise Dowsett-Lemaire, and subsequent comparison between CC's Uluguru recording and the Cambridge Tanzania Rainforest Project recording of *B. vosseleri* from the Usambaras (Evans *et al.* 1994) confirm a range extension of the Nduk Eagle Owl for the Uluguru Forest. The Uluguru recording is being placed with the National Sound Archive at the British Library of Wildlife Sounds, London.

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Range extension of the Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta*

On 19 April 1997, I erected a single 12-m mist net to catch and ring birds at Raganga (0°36′S, 34°43′E), Kisii District, western Kenya. The netting site was about 5 m from a river bank covered mainly by dense bushes of *Sesbania sesban* (about 7 m high), interspersed with *Cyperaceae* sp. and *Hymenaea* sp.

At about 11:00, two firefinches *Lagonosticta* sp. were caught, which at first glance I thought were immatures or adult female Red-billed Firefinches *Lagonosticta*

senegala (because of their uniform brown colour on the upperparts),though they looked a little more plump than the *L. senegala* I have handled before. On closer inspection, however, a number of features, namely uniform brown upperparts, bright crimson red underparts and white irregular bars on the upper breast, did not fit *L. senegala* but suggested instead Bar-breasted Firefinch *L. rufopicta*. Notes made at the time were as follows:

Description: Upperparts, including the crown, were uniform brown on both birds (adult male *L. senegala* has upperparts tinged pink-red); throat, ear-coverts to above the eye, upper belly and flanks were rich crimson red in one bird but in the other (which I took to be female) pale crimson red (immature and adult female *L. senegala* are light buff below); breast and upper flank feathers had bright white sub-terminal bars with red tips forming irregular breast bars (white spots only on flanks in *L. senegala*); white bars absent from lower flanks; lower belly pinkish red; undertail-coverts buffy white; tail feathers black and uppertail-coverts crimson; the eye ring was grey (yellow in *L. senegala*).

Wing formula: Primaries 4–7 (numbered ascendently, Svensson 1994) were emarginated; there was no notch on the 2nd primary (present in *L. senegala*).

Biometrics: Head length (from behind the skull to the tip of the bill) 22.5 mm (female?) and 23.1 mm (male?); tarsus (bent to behind upper tarsus joint) 16.4 mm (female?) and 16.7 mm (male?); weight 9.0 g (female?) and 8.5 g (male?); wing length 50 mm (female?) and 51 mm (male?).

While the biometrics do not help in separating the two species (Mackworth-Praed & Grant 1960, Clement *et al.* 1993), the combination of plumage colour, barred breast and wing formula rules out *L. senegala*. The only other confusion species, *L. nitidula* (considered by some authorities as a race of *L. rufopicta*), is reported to occur from the extreme southwest of Tanzania southward (Clement *et al.* 1993, Britton 1980). Despite the fact that the netting site is out of range for *L. nitidula*, it can also be ruled out as it has grey-brown uppertail-coverts (the two birds caught had crimson uppertail coverts). I therefore concluded that these were two Bar-breasted Firefinches *L. rufopicta* (probably male and female). My doubts were dispelled three days later when an adult male *L. senegala* was mist netted in the same area. It was quite different, with its crown and nape red, mantle, greater coverts and scapulars tinged red, and white spots (not bars) only on the flanks. I further confirmed the identification by reference to three skins (one male and two females) of *L. rufopicta* in the collection of the Ornithology Department, National Museums of Kenya.

L. rufopicta is known to occur in Kenya from Mumias and Siaya Districts to the northern shores of the Winam Gulf of Lake Victoria (Zimmerman *et al.* 1996, Lewis & Pomeroy 1989), where it is described as "fairly common" (Zimmerman *et al.* 1996). This appears to be the first record of *L. rufopicta* anywhere south of the Winam Gulf in Kenya, the site (Raganga) where the birds were caught lying about 60 km south of Kisumu (northern shores of Lake Victoria). It may be common but under-recorded since its habits are said to be very similar to those of *L. senegala*, which is common in the area. As time was limited, I was not able to look further to determine its abundance.

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A nest of Hartlaub's Bustard *Eupodotis hartlaubii*

The nest and eggs of Hartlaub's Bustard are apparently undescribed (Mackworth-Praed & Grant 1957, Zimmerman *et al.* 1996). Although recorded as recently breeding in three locations in Kenya by Lewis & Pomeroy (1989), no details are given.

On 7 May 1997 a sitting female Hartlaub's Bustard was disturbed off her nest on Game Ranching Limited, 01°31′36″S, 36°59′48″E. It contained two recently laid eggs. Three days later the nest was revisited and found to be empty. However, 30 m northeast, an incubating female Hartlaub's Bustard was found with two eggs. The first clutch may have been depredated and a second clutch laid nearby, or possibly the female moved the nest. Five days later the nest was revisited and the two eggs were warm.

On 16 May 1997, the nest had moved some 5 m west and only one egg was present. The other was found about 40 m away on a road and appeared to have been partly eaten, by a corvid rather than a jackal or mongoose. It contained a 4-cm embryo.

On 25 May 1997 the nest was searched for in vain. Either the clutch had been depredated or, in view of the shifting nature of the nest, the egg may have been rolled to another site.

All three nests were in natural clearings in the long grass with no obvious entry or exit routes. The eggs were laid on dried fallen grass which appeared to have been natural and not constructed. The nests had no discernable hollow. The stamped-down area was considered to be the nest bowl and measured at about 23 cm (circumference) on all nests. The fresh green grass height averaged some 46 cm, and the seeding heads some 95 cm. The species of grass was predominantly *Themeda triandra*.

Both eggs were olive green-brown with clearly defined brown spots of 4 to 6 mm diameter. Both showed a greater concentration of pigment at the point of the egg. The eggs were remarkably round and larger than those of the White-bellied Bustard